



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 7, 2003

S. 210

Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 5, 2003*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 210 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. S. 210 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 210 would designate 24 sites in New Mexico as the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Protection Sites. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state and local entities, to develop a management plan for those sites, but it specifies that the Secretary would only have authority to administer federal lands within them. S. 210 would authorize the Secretary, at the request of nonfederal landowners, to enter into cooperative agreements with those landowners to protect and manage archaeological resources on their lands. The bill also would authorize the Secretary to acquire such lands from willing sellers. Finally, S. 210 would withdraw federal lands within the proposed sites from programs to develop geothermal and mineral resources.

Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CBO estimates that the agency would spend less than \$500,000 annually to develop a management plan, implement cooperative agreements, and acquire nonfederal lands, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Withdrawing federal lands from programs to develop certain resources could result in forgone receipts (a credit against direct spending) if, under current law, the lands would generate income from such activities. According to BLM, however, the federal lands within the proposed sites currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years; hence, we estimate that any forgone offsetting receipts under S. 210 would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Paul R. Cullinan, Chief for Human Resources Cost Estimates Unit of the Budget Analysis Division.